



Deepastambha Charitable Trust, Pune.

प्रतिस्व

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*Team Skool Sansad at Vidhan Bhavan
24/04/2026*

By the team

When we sat down to put together this edition of Pratirav, one thought kept coming back to us: so much of life changes because someone gave us a chance.

A chance to learn. A chance to speak. A chance to step into a room we never imagined ourselves in. And just as often, change begins because someone chose to give—quietly, generously, without making a spectacle of it.

That is the feeling this edition carries.

Over the past few months, we have met students who showed up with nervous excitement, volunteers who kept things moving behind the scenes, mentors who patiently guided others, and people who simply chose to contribute because they believed it would make a difference. None of these moments looked extraordinary on the surface. But together, they reminded us how much impact is built through ordinary acts of trust and effort.

At Pratirav, we often write about events, projects, and initiatives. But behind every article is something deeply human: people trying to create a little more possibility for one another. Someone taking initiative. A community coming together. A helping hand reaching someone at the right time.

This edition reflects that spirit. It is about opportunities, yes—but also about what we do with them. It is about giving, but not only in the form of donations or resources. Sometimes giving means offering time, guidance, patience, encouragement, or simply showing up consistently.

As a team, working on this newsletter reminds us that stories matter because people matter. The work becomes meaningful when we pause long enough to notice the faces, conversations, and emotions behind it.

We hope this edition leaves you with the same feeling it left us with while curating it: that even small acts can travel far, and that the opportunities we receive become most meaningful when they help us create opportunities for others.

Thank you for reading, supporting, and growing with Pratirav.

Warm regards,
Team Pratirav.

A Dream Realized: Visit to Vidhan Bhavan



Amidst dialogue that bridged the gap between governance and young minds.

"Some invitations arrive as messages; others arrive as life-changing experiences. This was one of them"

What began as a simple mentor registration for the Skool Sansad initiative eventually became one of the most memorable and inspiring experiences of my life. My recent visit to Vidhan Bhavan, Mumbai, was not just an educational tour—it was a journey that deepened my understanding of leadership, governance, and public service.

This incredible opportunity came through the Skool Sansad initiative conducted by Deepstambha. When I first received the message regarding the activity and the mentor enrolment process, I did not think much about it. I simply registered my name as a mentor. However, the very next day,

I received a call from the organizing team the very next day, I received a call from the organizing team informing me that I had been selected as a mentor and would be responsible for guiding students participating in the program.

As mentors, our role extended beyond coordinating activities. We were expected to prepare students for the event, help them understand its significance, and most importantly, set a positive example through our actions and values. Since the students looked up to us as their seniors, we carried the responsibility of inspiring them and helping them grow both personally and socially.

Like many meaningful journeys, this one also came with moments of uncertainty. At

one stage, I seriously considered stepping back from my role as a mentor due to personal reasons and other commitments. After discussing my concerns with the team and spending considerable time reflecting on the opportunity, I decided to continue. Looking back today, I am grateful that I made that decision, as it led to one of the most memorable experiences of my life.

As the Skool Sansad activities progressed successfully, we received exciting news. We were honored with an invitation from Mr. Nagnath Thite, Joint Secretary at the Maharashtra Legislature Secretariat. Having closely followed the Skool Sansad initiative for years, he invited our team, mentors, and students for a special visit to Vidhan Bhavan. This invitation itself was a recognition of the dedication and hard work that countless volunteers, mentors, and organizers had invested in the program over the years.

The visit to Vidhan Bhavan was truly a dream come true. For many of us, it was our first opportunity to enter one of Maharashtra's most important democratic institutions. The most unforgettable moment was standing on the floor of the Legislative Assembly—the very place where elected representatives debate, discuss policies, and make decisions that impact millions of people across the state.



Every institution has stories; every story needs a storyteller.

Being present in that historic chamber was both inspiring and humbling. It gave me a deeper appreciation for the democratic process and the responsibilities carried by public representatives. It was fascinating to imagine the countless discussions, debates, and decisions that had taken place within those walls for the welfare and development of Maharashtra and its citizens.

The architectural beauty and thoughtful design of Vidhan Bhavan added to the experience. Every section of the building reflected the importance of its purpose. What made the visit even more enriching was the detailed and engaging explanation provided by Mr. Nagnath Thite. His knowledge, enthusiasm, and willingness to answer questions transformed the visit from a simple tour into a meaningful learning experience.

We were also privileged to visit several important locations within the complex, including the Legislative Assembly (Vidhan Sabha), the Legislative Council (Vidhan Parishad), and the offices and cabins associated with the Hon'ble Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister. These visits offered us a rare glimpse into the functioning of the state's administrative and legislative system.



A moment of quiet reflection amidst a day of discovery.

This visit was not just an educational excursion; it was a reminder of what can be achieved through dedication, teamwork, and a commitment to learning. It also highlighted the importance of initiatives like Skool Sansad, which provide young people with opportunities to understand governance, leadership, and civic responsibility firsthand.

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to Deepstambha Charitable Trust and the entire Skool Sansad team for making this remarkable experience possible. A special thanks goes to all the volunteers, mentors, and organizers whose years of hard work contributed to creating such opportunities for students and youth.

Finally, I extend my sincere gratitude to Mr. Nagnath Thite, Joint Secretary at the Maharashtra Legislature Secretariat, for inviting us to Vidhan Bhavan and for sharing his valuable insights. His guidance and hospitality made the visit truly unforgettable.

Some memories fade with time, while others continue to inspire us. My visit to Vidhan Bhavan will always remain one of those inspiring memories—a reminder that opportunities often come when we choose to step forward, take responsibility, and believe in the journey.

*-Dhananjay,
Member, Deepastambha Charitable Trust.*



A room full of questions waiting to be asked.



Moments of attention often become moments of transformation.

Young Changemakers of Upayn

During Upayn 2026, remarkable energy and enthusiasm were witnessed all around the venue. From confidently escorting visitors and guiding them through different donation counters to interacting warmly with people and managing responsibilities at various counters with sincerity, a strong force of young volunteers stood at the heart of the event.

What made this even more special was that many of these children were participants of the Upayn Summer Camp conducted a week before Upayn. The camp was designed not just as a preparation for the event, but as a space to nurture confidence, empathy, teamwork, and leadership among children through actual participation and experiences.

Young minds carry a kind of energy that is hopeful, fearless, and truly inspiring. When given the right platform, they do not just participate, but transform ideas into movements. At Deepastambha Charitable Trust, this belief grows stronger every year through the Upayn Summer Camp.

What makes these young minds extraordinary is their enthusiasm to learn and their courage to try new things. Whether it is approaching unknown people during awareness campaigns, creating innovative reel scripts, participating in decorations, or helping in planning activities, they contribute with sincerity and excitement. Their ideas are fresh, their intentions are genuine, and often, they end up teaching us many new things too.

For the last two years, the Upayn Summer Camp has become an important part of the ideology behind Upayn. It represents a gradual passing of the leadership baton — preparing the younger generation to take ownership of initiatives rooted in compassion and collective responsibility. Social change becomes truly sustainable when young people feel emotionally connected to it from an early age.

The ideology behind Upayn is not limited to donation alone. At its heart, it is about nurturing sensitivity, empathy, leadership, and active social participation among young minds. We believe that values like kindness, teamwork, and responsibility are best understood not through lectures, but through experiences and action. That is why the summer camp focuses on giving children opportunities to participate, create, communicate, and contribute meaningfully.

At Deepastambha, we envision a future where Upayn is entirely driven by these young changemakers - a future where children grow up believing that helping others is not an occasional act, but a way of life. Because the future of social change does not only lie in experienced hands; sometimes, it begins with the smallest hands filled with energy, kindness, compassion, and the power to build a better tomorrow!

-Radha,

Member, Deepastambha Charitable Trust.

स्काय इज द लिमिट: जेव्हा 'स्कूल संसद'ने रचला विधानभवनात इतिहास!

आजचा तरुण भारत एका अद्भुत टप्प्यावर उभा आहे. पुढील २०-२५ वर्षे आपल्या देशाला तरुणाईची अफाट ताकद (Demographic Dividend) मिळणार आहे आणि हे अथांग मानवी भांडवल आज शाळांच्या वर्गात घडत आहे. याच पिढीला भारतीय लोकशाहीचे मर्म समजावून सांगण्यासाठी, त्यांच्यात राजकारणाविषयी सकारात्मकता निर्माण करण्यासाठी आणि 'जागतिक पातळीवर विचार करून स्थानिक पातळीवर कृती करणारे' भविष्यातील विचारवंत नेते घडवण्यासाठी २०१४ मध्ये 'दीपस्तंभ चॅरिटेबल ट्रस्ट'ने 'स्कूल संसद' या अनोख्या उपक्रमाची पायाभरणी केली.

केवळ पुस्तकी नियम न शिकवता, संसदेच्या कामकाजामागचे तर्कशास्त्र विद्यार्थ्यांना कळावे आणि अगदी ग्रामीण भागातील तळागाळातील मुलालाही नेतृत्व करण्याची विनामूल्य व समान संधी मिळावी, या मुख्य उद्देशाने सुरू झालेली स्कूल संसद गेल्या १३ वर्षांत संपूर्ण महाराष्ट्रात एक मानाची चळवळ बनली.

परंतु, या १३ वर्षांच्या प्रवासात दीपस्तंभच्या प्रत्येक स्वयंसेवकाने, मार्गदर्शकाने आणि विद्यार्थ्याने एक स्वप्न उराशी बाळगलं होतं ते म्हणजे ज्या लोकशाहीची प्रतिकृती आपण स्टेजवर उभी करतोय, ती प्रत्यक्ष जिथून चालते त्या पवित्र वास्तूची सफर या मुलांना घडवणे!

स्वप्नपूर्तीचा तो ऐतिहासिक क्षण: जेव्हा मुलं थेट लोकशाहीच्या गाभाऱ्यात पोहोचली!

गेल्या १३ वर्षांची अविरत मेहनत, शेकडो लोकांच्या गाठीभेटी आणि ढळून दिलेला विश्वास यांचं फळ अखेर २०२६ च्या स्कूल संसदनंतर मिळालं. स्कूल संसदच्या इतिहासात अशी सुवर्णअक्षरांनी लिहिली जाईल अशी घटना घडली, ज्याने केवळ इतिहास रचला नाही, तर दीपस्तंभच्या चळवळीला एका नव्या उंचीवर नेऊन ठेवले. आमचे विद्यार्थी केवळ प्रेक्षक म्हणून विधानभवनात गेले नाहीत, तर त्यांनी लोकशाहीच्या सर्वोच्च गाभाऱ्यात पाऊल ठेवले:

थेट विधानसभा आणि विधानपरिषद गृहाच्या मुख्य फ्लोरवर: जिथे महाराष्ट्राचे नशीब ठरवणारे कायदे तयार होतात, जिथे राज्याचे दिग्गज नेते बसून चर्चा करतात, थेट त्याच सभागृहाच्या मुख्य फ्लोरवर उभे राहून विद्यार्थ्यांनी लोकशाहीचा थरार अनुभवला.

ऐतिहासिक सेंट्रल हॉल: देशाच्या आणि राज्याच्या राजकीय इतिहासाचे अनेक मूक साक्षीदार असलेल्या सेंट्रल हॉलमध्ये मुलांना प्रत्यक्ष जाण्याची संधी मिळाली, ज्यामुळे त्यांच्यातील राष्ट्रप्रेम अधिक दृढ झाले.

सत्ताकेंद्राच्या दारातून आत: चक्र मुख्यमंत्री आणि उपमुख्यमंत्री यांच्या मुख्य कार्यालयांमध्ये जेव्हा या विद्यार्थ्यांनी प्रवेश केला, तेव्हा त्यांच्या डोळ्यांतील चमक पाहण्यासारखी होती.

या भेटीने पुस्तकातील 'नागरीशास्त्र' आणि 'राज्यशास्त्र' एका सेकंदात जिवंत केले. ज्या वास्तूमध्ये पोहोचण्याचे स्वप्न अनेक जण आयुष्यभर पाहतात, तिथे शालेय वयातच मानाने पाय ठेवता आल्यामुळे मुलांचा आत्मविश्वास आणि राष्ट्रभाव एका वेगळ्याच पातळीवर पोहोचला. गेल्या १३ वर्षांपासून पडद्यामागे राहून अहोरात्र कष्ट उपसणाऱ्या दीपस्तंभच्या स्वयंसेवकांसाठी आणि मेंटॉर्ससाठी हा डोळ्यात पाणी आणणारा अत्यंत भावूक आणि 'ड्रीम कम टू' मोमेंट होता.

या ऐतिहासिक टप्प्यातून काय साध्य झाले?

अकल्पनीय प्रेरणा (Unmatched Motivation): प्रत्यक्ष विधानसभा पाहिल्यामुळे विद्यार्थ्यांची विचार करण्याची पद्धत बदलली आहे. आपणही भविष्यात या देशाचे नेतृत्व करू शकतो, हा विश्वास त्यांच्या मनात निर्माण झाला आहे.

स्वयंसेवकांमध्ये नवऊर्जा: या अभूतपूर्व यशामुळे दीपस्तंभच्या कार्यकर्त्यांचे मनोधैर्य द्विगुणित झाले असून, आता आणखी मोठे प्रकल्प हाती घेण्यासाठी संपूर्ण टीम सज्ज झाली आहे.

तळागाळातील शाळांना नवी दिशा: स्कूल संसद पूर्णपणे विनामूल्य असल्यामुळे, आता ग्रामीण आणि दुर्गम भागातील शाळांमधील मुलांनाही कळून चुकले आहे की, जर जिद्द असेल तर थेट मुख्यमंत्र्यांच्या दालनापर्यंतची दारे त्यांच्यासाठी उघडी आहेत.

पुढील पाऊल...

विधानभवनाच्या मुख्य सभागृहापर्यंत पोहोचणे हा दीपस्तंभच्या शिरपेचात रोवला गेलेला सर्वात मानाचा तुरा आहे. या मैलाच्या दगडानंतर आता आमचे पाय जमिनीवर आणि डोळे भविष्याकडे आहेत. आगामी काळात शाळा आणि विद्यार्थ्यांचा सहभाग प्रचंड वाढणार आहे, याची आम्हाला खात्री आहे.

गेल्या १३ वर्षांत ज्यांनी ज्यांनी विश्वासाने साथ दिली, त्या सर्व शाळा, मार्गदर्शक आणि अहोरात्र राबणाऱ्या स्वयंसेवकांचे आभार. आपण सिद्ध केलंय की स्वप्ने नक्कीच पूर्ण होतात. आता खऱ्या अर्थाने... **स्काय इज द लिमिट!**

-Amey,

Member, Deepastambha Charitable Trust.

Stories Within a Frame

When I walked up to the Vidhan Bhavan, my hands instinctively reached for my camera, ready to frame the building's grand architecture and geometric lines. But the strict security protocols at the gate meant my camera couldn't come inside with me. Paradoxically, losing my gear made me see everything with absolute, unshielded clarity.



A landmark not only of architecture, but of accountability.

Instead of focusing on superficial symmetry, I was immediately struck by the invisible, powerful sense of authority that fills the space. Before this visit, politics felt like a distant, chaotic landscape of noise and bias. But walking the same corridors as the Chief Minister and MLAs—observing the stark interplay of light, shadow, and human movement—I felt the true weight of the massive "engine" that runs our state.

The absolute highlight of the day was the insight shared by Joint Secretary Nagnath Thite. He didn't just explain the history of the house; his words painted vivid pictures, igniting a fire of inspiration within us. For a photographer, a change in lighting changes everything; this visit was a total perspective-changer for my worldview. I moved from seeing democracy as a noisy friction-point to understanding it as a space

of immense, coordinated effort. I now feel a genuine drive to track the discussions within those walls and engage more deeply with our political process.

Walking through those grand halls, I couldn't help but look at the textures of the architecture and wonder: if these walls were granted a voice, what secrets would they spill? What echoes of history—of fierce debates, hushed compromises, and the quiet weight of democracy—still vibrate within this stone? I might not have caught it on film, but the composition of that moment is permanently etched in my mind.

I am incredibly grateful to the Skool Sansad team and the Deepastambha Charitable Trust for this opportunity. You didn't just give us a tour; you gave us a seat at the table of realization. If these walls could speak,

they'd echo the quiet weight of responsibility—a weight I now respect more than ever. This wasn't just a visit; it was a dream realized, captured perfectly even without a camera.



A classroom unlike any other.

Through a camera lens, the world reveals itself in fractions of a second. You begin to look past the surface, searching instead for the raw, unspoken emotions that define a single moment. As a photographer representing the Deepastambha Charitable Trust, being a part of Upayn 2026 was not just an assignment—it was a profound journey of capturing humanity at its most compassionate.

The word Upayn translates beautifully to "a donation in the form of a gift." Over the course of the event, my camera and I bore witness to this definition coming to life in 11 distinct streams of benevolence: Blood, Clothes, Books, Toys, Stationery, Medicines, E-waste, Joy, Organ Donation, Hair Donation, Eye Donation, Stem Cell, and Thalassemia Awareness.

When capturing the collection of clothes, books, toys, and stationery, my viewfinder was filled with vibrant, kinetic energy. I watched—and captured—the pure, unfiltered joy of children letting go of their favorite toys so another child could smile, and the gentle, proud expressions of parents guiding them.



Each donation represents a commitment to community health and collective well-being.



The first point of contact for visitors, and a shared commitment to giving, set the tone for the day.

However, Upayn 2026 was not just a celebration; it was an awakening. The atmosphere shifted into something deeply moving when I turned my lens toward the awareness drives for organ, eye, hair, and stem cell donations, as well as Thalassemia.

Photographing these spaces required a different kind of sensitivity. The vibrant smiles of the donation stalls gave way to quiet, intense conversations filled with immense gravity. Through my lens, I saw the profound seriousness on the faces of visitors as they realized the power they held to literally save a life or give someone the gift of sight. I captured the quiet determination of individuals signing pledge forms—moments of silent heroism that didn't need words to convey their magnitude.

One of the most visually and emotionally captivating spaces at the venue was our Gratitude Wall. We had set it up specifically so visitors could write down their thoughts about this project, and it quickly became a living, breathing canvas of collective human warmth.



Compassion often arrives with its sleeves rolled up.



Visitors at the Clothes Donation Stall.

As a photographer, watching that wall fill up was an absolute joy. My lens tracked a beautiful spectrum of generations coming together in one spot. I framed shots of little kids standing on tiptoes to scribble their innocent, pure words of happiness; teenagers leaning in thoughtfully to share their perspective; and elderly people taking their time, their hands steady as they poured their hearts out about what it meant to be a part of this initiative. Every marker stroke was a testament to the impact Upayn was making. Capturing those candid expressions—the smiles, the reflective pauses, the shared glances as people read each other's words—felt like preserving the very heartbeat of the event.

For a photographer, the camera can sometimes act as a shield, but at Upayn, it served as a magnifier for my own emotions. Every frame I composed taught me something new about the human spirit. I wasn't just adjusting my focus, aperture, and shutter speed; I was aligning my heart with the vision of Deepastambha Charitable Trust.

To be entrusted with the responsibility of freezing these fleeting, powerful moments of unconditional love and societal awareness was a true honor. These photographs are more than just digital files; they are a visual testament to the fact that when a community comes together to give, they create a tapestry of hope that will inspire generations to come.

-Vaishnavi,
Member, Deepastambha Charitable Trust.



A wall of words, built one hopeful thought at a time.



Awareness begins with conversation.



Small acts of generosity create a lasting impact



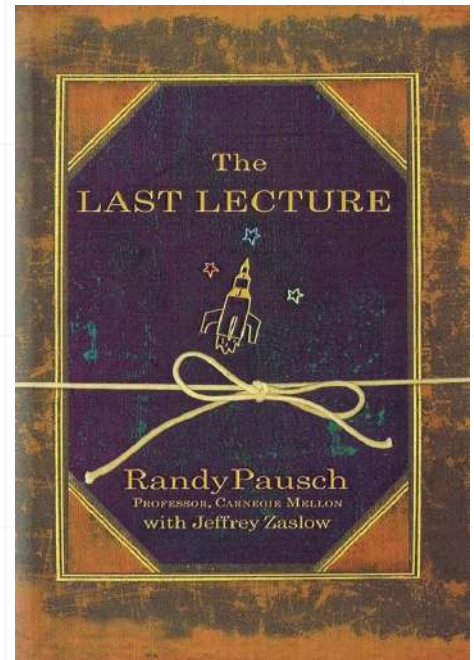
The driving force behind Upayn 2026.

Pause and Ponder

Read of the month:

The Last Lecture

The Last Lecture by Randy Pausch is a book that stays with you long after you finish it. Written after he was diagnosed with terminal cancer, it is not a story about dying but about living well. Through honest, often humorous stories from his own life, Pausch reflects on dreams, setbacks, relationships, and the lessons that shape us. What makes the book so impactful is how genuine it feels. There are no grand speeches or complicated ideas—just simple truths shared by someone who knows time is precious. More than anything, The Last Lecture encourages readers to appreciate the present, hold on to what matters, and make the most of the life they have.



Food for thought:

Be right ↪

**WOULD YOU
RATHER**

↪ Or
be understood?

Write to us at 9970704444 or pratiravcommunications@gmail.com

Impact

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